

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-20 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 21-23 are pending.

Claim 22 was rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,721,491 to Buchanan. Claim 22 recites, among other things, that a valve has a remote portion spaced away from an inlet and adhered to one of the films. This claimed feature is not shown in, or suggested by, Buchanan '491.

Buchanan '491 discloses a valve 11 (see Fig. 1) sealed at a stem 12 of the balloon 10. The valve 11 does not extend into the interior of the balloon. At best, the stem 12 extends into the interior of the balloon; however, no remote portion of the stem is adhered to one of the balloon films. Also, the tube or rod 22 extends into the interior of the balloon; however, here again, no remote portion of the tube or rod 22 is adhered to one of the balloon films. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 22-23 by Buchanan '491 is respectfully requested.

As for claim 21, it was rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,545,844 to Buchanan. The Examiner regarded aluminum layer 13 as equivalent to applicant's support carrier 22. Reconsideration of this determination is respectfully requested.

As previously argued, the aluminum layer 13 is part of a laminated film web W1 or W2. Each film web has three layers, an outer plastic layer 14, an inner plastic layer 15, and a central aluminum layer 13. Each film web is thus a composite laminate, and all of the layers are "equally" flexible. Contrary to the Examiner's view, the central aluminum layer 13 is not a support carrier that is less flexible than the outer and inner layers 14, 15.

To emphasize this distinction, claim 21 has been amended to recite that the carrier sheet supports the lower film from flexing, and also supports the sealed film assembly against flexing. This is not true for the central layer 13 of Buchanan '844.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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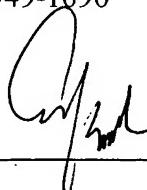
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